

3 August 1970

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[redacted]
New York

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Dear Mrs. [redacted]

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25X1 [redacted] sent me a copy of the letter you received from [redacted] of Oakland, California, asking if you could give him some background on your OSS experience.

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[redacted] once worked for the Agency for a short time and then left to do research at the University of California for a thesis dealing with OSS. This project has no official connection with, or blessing by, the Agency. However, [redacted] came to Washington, and I talked to him for some time as did John Bross. He is an interesting, young fellow, who has done a great deal of work and talked to a great many ex-OSSers. He has already done one portion of his thesis, which he gave us. Surprisingly enough, it is designed to develop a thesis that OSS was a contributor to liberal programs, including anticolonialism. As you know, OSS was such a varied and diverse group that you can make almost any case you want for it.

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I have informed [redacted] that he cannot have access to the OSS Archives but that in general we had no objection to his talking to people if they wanted to discuss their experiences with him and thought that there was no security involved at this late date. Therefore, it really depends on what you personally want to do. I, of course, remember some of the aspects of your story and do not believe there is any great security problem now. If

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you want to correspond with him, we would have no objection, but we certainly are not supporting it either. He is entirely on his own and indeed makes no pretense of having any official backing. In other words, he seems responsible and hard working and doing this out of the plain interest in the project.

Sincerely,

s/

Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

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cc: [redacted]

Mr. John Bross
OGC chrono
✓subject RECORDS

OGC:LRH:jeb

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OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94610

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July 11, 1970



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Dear Mrs. [redacted]

I am now working on a book dealing with the Office of Strategic Services, to be published by the University of California Press. [redacted] I understand that you served with the OSS, and I would be grateful if you would assist me in my research.

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It would be most helpful to me if I could see a brief summary of your OSS experience, including general dates, geographical locations, rank, and branch designation (R&A, SI, SO, MO, X2, FN, etc.) - any explanatory material which you might care to add would be welcomed. Of course, I would not quote from such a statement directly without your express permission.

Should you desire any further information, I would be more than happy to oblige. I hope to hear from you in the near future.

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Sincerely,

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Dear Larry - The request of this [redacted] was sent to an old friend [redacted] with whom I spent last week [redacted] she asked me whether she should respond - is this a bona fide work, etc. I'm sure you and many others got the same request and have a stock answer handy. Would you be good enough to send her a brief word of advice at the above address? You may recall that [redacted] OSS record included getting captured, the death of a jeep driver, and mysterious release - Maybe you don't want her to submit her [redacted] record! Best to you & Jeanne - we are in the Ofc, but we here its pretty damn hot & humid. [redacted] often - as such [redacted]

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